

# **DESIGNATION OF NEAH BAY SCENIC BYWAY AS STATE SCENIC BYWAY**

## **BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
**MARCH 2002 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to brief the Commission on action they will be asked to take at the April Commission Meeting. At that time, the Makah Tribal Council will request that the Transportation Commission adopt a resolution to designate the tribe's Neah Bay Scenic Byway as a state scenic byway.

### **ACTION/OUTCOME:**

In consideration of improving tourism promotion, tribal and traveler education, and resource interpretation of the stories of the Makah Tribal heritage in the Neah Bay area, the Makah Tribal Council has developed and applied criteria for selection of the Neah Bay Scenic Byway. If the Commission adopts the resolution to officially recognize the Neah Bay Scenic Byway, the Makah Tribe will become eligible to apply for corridor management planning funds from the National Scenic Byway Program (NSB). It is the intent of the Tribe to apply for these funds in the current FY 2003 NSB cycle. The Makah Tribe is required to complete a corridor management plan before becoming eligible to apply for National Scenic Byway status, either as an extension of the SR 112 – Strait of Juan de Fuca Scenic Highway, or as a separately designated route.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In the past few years several actions at the local, state, federal, and tribal level have occurred that allow this item to come before the Commission:

- 1999 – RCW 47.39 was amended to give the Transportation Commission the authority to designate eligible roadways as part of the state system of scenic byways and heritage tour routes.
- 2000 – The federal Secretary of Transportation designated SR 112 as a National Scenic Byway ending at the Makah Reservation.
- 2001 – The Makah Tribe developed criteria for the Neah Bay Scenic Byway (See [attached “A”](#)).
- 2002 – The Makah Tribal Council passed a resolution requesting that selected tribal roads be recognized as part of the state scenic byway system. The Tribe officially designated its Neah Bay Scenic Byway on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 (see [attached “B”](#)).

**DISCUSSION:**

Heritage Corridors Program has implemented an online public comment process on the WSDOT public web site, and co-hosted a public open house with the tribe on February 25, 2002 in Neah Bay. A synopsis of the public comments will be shared with Commission at the March, 2002 Commission Meeting.

These proposed actions by the Tribe and the Transportation Commission are a national model of cooperation and true government-to-government relations. This action will be the first of its kind in the state of Washington and in the nation.

The recent *Tribal Tourism* publication prepared by the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs identifies the Makah Tribe as having an interest in both economic development and tourism enhancement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No Action

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